<u>Abstract</u>

Paging Channel Control Method and Apparatus

In a messaging system, message traffic is transmitted on one or more traffic channels T_1 , T_2 and the allocation of groups S_1 , S_2 of receivers to the traffic channels T_1 , T_2 is controlled by information transmitted on a bulletin board channel BB. A predetermined number of frames before a change in the traffic channel allocation, a countdown value is transmitted in the relevant traffic channel T_1 and the countdown value is decremented in each subsequent frame. Before the countdown value reaches zero, the groups of receivers S_1 , S_2 retune to the bulletin board channel, receive their new channel allocations and retune to the traffic channel indicated for their group.

The frame timings of the different traffic channels T_1 , T_2 are staggered to reduce the peak power required to transmit message bursts in these channels.

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